

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00108 180730Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /071 W
-----039326 180732Z /20

P 180542Z JAN 78

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5522

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XF, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQ AND REJECTION FRONT

1. IRAQI AMBASSADORS IN ARAB CAPITALS ARE PRESENTLY IN BAGHDAD, PROBABLY FOR DISCUSSION OF NEW IRAQI FOREIGN POLICY LINE IN WAKE OF SADAT INITIATIVES AND MOVES TOWARD RECONCILIATION WITH SYRIA.

2. CLUE TO REGIME THINKING IS SUGGESTED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN SPEECH TO PARTY GROUP JANUARY 16. SAYING CLOSURE OF ONE FRONT DOES NOT MEAN COLLAPSE OR SURRENDER OF NATION, HUSSEIN HINTED AT POSSIBILITY THAT IRAQ WILL TAKE PART IN "STEADFASTNESS FRONT" IN PLACE OF REJECTION FRONT. STEADFASTNESS FRONT COULD ACCOMMODATE SYRIA AND OTHERS WHO OPPOSE SADAT'S POLICIES WITHOUT WISHING TO FORECLOSE EVENTUAL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HUSSEIN ADVISED PATIENCE BUT WARNED AGAINST FLEXIBILITY USED AS COVER FOR CONCESSIONS. SPEAKING OF SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM HE NOTED, "DEALING WITH THE
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00108 180730Z

ENEMY MEANS KNEELING DOWN TO HEM WITHOUT GETTING ANYTHING IN EXCHANGE."

3. MEANWHILE, LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY HAS CALLED FOR IRAQ TO SUPPORT FORMULA OF TRIPOLI CONFERENCE, FROM WHICH IRAQ HAD ANGRILY WITHDRAWN. IT UNLIKELY PAPER WOULD DISCLOSE ALL WITHOUT CLEAR SIGN THAT REGIME PREPARED TO ACCEPT LESS THAN

FULL SYRIAN REJECTION OF PEACE PROCESS.

4. PREPARATIONS ARE GOING AHEAD FOR MASS RALLY IN BAGHDAD
JANUARY 19 ON ANNIVERSARY OF "EGYPTIAN POPULAR UPRISING."
REGIME CHOOSES TO PORTRAY LAST YEARS FOOD RIOTS AS REACTION TO
"SADAT'S SUBSERVIENCE TO IMPERIALIST DICTATES" IN POLITICAL AS
WELL AS ECONOMIC SPHERES.
PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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